COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

2/27/12

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Town of Dumfries, Director of Community Services

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PRIORITIES:

- Creating a curriculum for the Summer Employment Program
 - o I am in the process of restructuring this program, to include the development/design of a Summer Employment Curriculum, based on the Virginia Department of Education's Standards of Learning (SOL's). Changes will also be made to this program: eligibility requirements, delivery, structure and overall program components, in an effort to deliver a quality program to our youth that will reflect positively on the Town.
- Planning for the Multicultural Festival
 - o The committee is meeting regularly to plan for a successful event! Currently, the event has been advertised to: all groups/organizations/individuals who have previously participated in Town events, posted on community calendars, and companies in the surrounding areas that offer BBQ have been sent information on the BBQ Battle. A mailing is being sent out to the DBA, as well as continuous e-blasts for this event. This event will have begun print and online advertisements with Insidenova, as of March 1st.
- Drafting the Community Center Usage Policy
- Town of Dumfries Farmer's Market
 - There have been a few committee meetings on this. Plans are to have a Farmer's Market in the Town Hall Parking Lot, beginning late Spring/Early Summer. It will be a Saturday market. Plans will be finalized in late March.
- The DCJS Continuation/Dumfries Cares-waiting for the outcome of the continuation.
- Summer Kickball!!! Registration information will be finalized in March, and registrations will begin in April. Kickball will be played at Garrison Park on Friday nights!
- Recruitment of Volunteers-this will be on-going.
- Promotion and planning of Town Events for the remainder of the fiscal year.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The February Senior Luncheon was a success! Seniors enjoyed the treats from Emoni's Dessert Bar & Café. The Town of Dumfries Police Department also provided each senior with a FREE Town of Dumfries Senior Identification Card!

The March meeting will be held on Friday, March 16, 2012! The March Luncheon will have a St. Patrick's Day theme, and our featured guest will be Mrs. Mary Shufelt of the Prince William County Agency on Aging.

ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The Town's Annual Black History Month Celebration was held at Little Union Baptist Church on Saturday, February 11, 2012. The event was an overall success! We have heard reports that the participation has nearly doubled from previous years. Thank you to everyone who attended and assisted with making this event a success! Thank you Councilman Toney for being the MC for this event!

PARENTING CLASS

The Town of Dumfries has partnered with the Virginia Cooperative Extension to offer a 6-week Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) class for parents of school-age children (ages 6-12). Classes will be held Wednesday evenings, February 8-March 14, 2012 from 7:00-9:00pm. This class will cost \$40 per individual/couple. The class will be advertised through the Cooperative Extension, as well as through the Town.

The office of Virginia Cooperative Extension has been impressed with the turnout for our current Parenting Class. In fact, they have decided to continue their partnership with the Town of Dumfries, to offer the STEP class for parents of teens beginning April 18-May 30, 2012! Classes will be offered from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The cost will remain \$40 per individual/couple. Please contact the Cooperative Extension at 703.792.6288 to register for this class!

GRANTS

Awaiting the outcome of the DCJS JAGB Application for Continuation, see above.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Literacy Volunteers of America-Prince William County-ESL classes
- Virginia Cooperative Extension-PWC-Parenting classes, 4-H resource, nutrition resource
- Mahogany Books-Kids Literature Corner (<u>www.mahoganybooks.com</u>)
- Big Sis & Company- (<u>www.bigsisandcompany.net</u>) This company is focused on domestic violence prevention. Their CEO was a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration! They will be hosting a few domestic violence prevention programs in the community center. March-Today's Empowered Woman Conference.
- Sonia Hoehn-ESL Instructor, but has also donated children's books.
- Emoni's-donates samples for seniors. She also is willing to offer special coupons for students in our educational programs, who earn good marks on their report cards.
- Weems Botts/Historic Dumfries-Mrs. Baron has given presentations at some of our Senior Luncheon's and was also a guest speaker at the Town's Black History Month Celebration.